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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

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The following is a circular which was sent by Peric, former Croatian Minister, [redacted] to co-nationals [redacted]

This circular was distributed among refugees [redacted] and in it, Peric accused Ante Pavelic and other Croats of being in possession of gold formerly belonging to the Croatian nation.

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1. "From May 1945 to the present there has been much discussion among Croat emigres with respect to the fate of the Croatian State gold. Various rumors have been spread and still circulate, both real and fantasies. At times such rumors are the result of the fantasies of specific individuals, but very often they have been circulated intentionally by enemies and by individuals who had interests of their own. In all cases the real truth has never been known. The circle of those persons to whom the details relative to the future of the Croatian State gold are known is a very restricted one and is surrounded by silence. Those who know do not talk, either out of fear or out of self-interest. But the time has come when it would be appropriate to make known the names of the main 'scavengers' and 'leeches' who still suck the blood of the exiled Croat population while they themselves build factories and villas with the gold which they have so shamelessly stolen. Briefly, we desire to put on guard and warn the emigre Croat population, the Croat patriots, the 'little man' and all those who, altruistically and with the best of intentions, have deprived themselves of their hard-earned pesos in order to donate them where they think they would be most useful and necessary. We wish to inform these people of the fate of the Croat national gold and of those persons who, directly or indirectly, are implicated in this very serious theft that has been committed without pity or shame. While every possible means of collection is daily employed to obtain and save the money which Croat emigres have earned with their blood, those who are highly placed and rest upon the legitimacy of their possessions sit on the pile of gold which they share among themselves, not even giving a distant thought to the possibility of using the gold for those objectives for which hundreds of Croat emigres have contributed their pesos.
2. "Croat emigre! Do you know that in Buenos Aires certain people are living a life of luxury and are dissipating, as though it were their own property, more than 250 kilograms of gold which incontestably belongs to the Croat population. While you make your monthly contribution so that, as member of the circle of the friends of Croatia, you may have our daily

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Croat newspapers; while you donate your contribution so that we may have our own Croat house; while you offer your money to a fund so that with these sums you can celebrate properly national and Croat holidays or help the needy who are presently waiting, suffering and hungry in Austrian and Italian refugee camps; while you do all this, a small group of men has made provisions to have the gold changed into pesos and has joined various enterprises and commercial concerns and built houses and factories so that it may assure itself a better and more secure future in the belief that this state of affairs might last for quite a while. For this small group the least worry is that with respect to Croat emigration, the Croat press, the Croat house, and the sick and hungry refugees.

3. "Let us look at some concrete facts and bring to light some very interesting particulars. It must be borne in mind that many of those men who were entrusted with the transportation and the surveillance of the gold during its trip into exile are now dead. This circumstance greatly facilitates the position of the current holders of the gold because, the number of protagonists of this drama having been reduced to a minimum, they need no betrayal which might give rise to troubles or uncover unpleasant facts. However, there are still some persons alive who have not soiled their hands in this lurid affair and in this theft and who know the facts as they really happened, so that they can explain and document them at the proper time before the court of Croat public opinion.
4. "After the first few months following the date of the flight from Croatia, during which time certain 'distributions' and 'withdrawals' of the Croat treasure took place, also followed by armed robbery, there was still a considerable amount left over, approximately three hundred and fifty kilograms of gold, as well as 1,100 carats of diamonds and other valuables. This entire wealth had been buried in the vicinity of an Austrian village. The special task of guarding the exiled gold had been entrusted to the following: Franc Saric, Moskov, Kavran, Musa, and Lovro Susic. An inventory was drawn up at that time and each of the above-mentioned received a copy.
5. "The above specified amounts were all that remained of the Croat State treasure, and it was all that was left to us to be used at an opportune moment, usefully and wisely, in the interest of the Croat State and people. Unfortunately, the illusion that the guardians of this wealth could be trusted in the future lasted a short time. Indeed, some new actors appeared on the scene: Ustasha Colonel Mura Pavelic, and the Ustasha crooks, Godina, Tomljenovic and Cavic. In accordance with their orders, imparted in the name of the 'Poglavnik', that is to say, of Pavelic, these three, together with Moskov and Saric and without informing Kavran, Lovro Susic, and Musa, dug up the treasure and hid it in another place. In this way, what was left of the Croat State wealth disappeared forever. A few months later the tragic end of Moskov took place. The truth of that matter was that the British were in possession of a certain quantity of the gold that had been separated from the original 350 kilograms and had entrusted it to Moskov to take to Italy. But Saric, who was following Moskov, managed to save his own skin and remained in possession of a certain part of the gold. No one can ask him to account for this gold since he can justify himself by claiming that the British appropriated the entire amount.
6. "What, then, happened to the rest of the Croat gold? To this question only Godina, Tomljenovic and Cavic, but above all Dr. Ante Pavelic, could give a true answer because the former three acted in the name and upon orders of the latter and remitted what was left of the state gold to him in Buenos Aires. The treasure handed over to Pavelic reportedly amounts to not less than 250 kilograms of gold and 1,100 carats of diamonds.

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7. "While Croat emigres in Italy and Austria are still unable to immigrate to the United States and especially to Argentina, the large families of Tomljenovic and Govic, and subsequently also of Godina, were able to immigrate. Where at that time were they able to obtain so much money in order to undertake such a trip? Tomljenovic went to Brazil. Availing himself of the loquacity of Torica Bulat who at that time was in Rio de Janeiro, Tomljenovic succeeded in assuring for himself a meeting and contacts with an unnamed president of a bank, thus paving the way for the other two when they arrived in Brazil.
8. "No further comments should be necessary after this explanation. Perhaps the head of the bank asks one of them for some golden earrings. The above mentioned gentlemen should attempt to prove, if they can, that what I write does not correspond to the truth of the facts and, for his part, Dr. Ante Pavelic should try to prove that he is not the originator of this perfidious and fantastic theft of the Croat treasure of the Croat treasure. It would then be possible to ask him why he has become such a close friend of Godina in Buenos Aires whereas there are many honest and truly patriotic Croatians who do everything in order to avoid him. Is it not evidently the golden daggers and sequins that keep them bound to one another? Ask Pavelic how he can provide for the upkeep of five members of his family, not one of whom does any work? Where does he obtain the money to pay for his luxurious home? With what funds is he currently building his own villa at Caserosa while spreading lies relative to his poverty, making believe that he has become a simple worker? What does he do so often in the home of the Zagreb Jew, Ivo Heinrich, his principal bank advisor, who provides for the exchange of the gold? In addition, it would also be appropriate to ask Godina where he obtained the pieces of gold that several Croatians have seen in his possession in Buenos Aires, and how is he able to build a factory at Moron?
9. "The two men should also be asked where they have put the 350 kilograms of gold which they unearthed upon the orders of Dr. Ante Pavelic and which they subsequently transported to Buenos Aires without any right to do so. They cannot deny that they have done this and that they collaborated in taking away the treasure since some witnesses are still alive. They can only answer that the gold and the diamonds are in the possession of the 'Poplavnik', Dr. Ante Pavelic.
10. "The above are incontrovertible facts and only such idealists, idiots, or completely blind persons could still believe the lies that Pavelic and his gang have spread and still spread.
11. "There are also some new accomplices in this appropriation. These new elements have been cleverly implicated in the lurid business by Dr. Pavelic. As a matter of fact, he gives these new accomplices a monthly salary from the stolen gold and considers them as his ministers. He pays them to compensate them for their loyalty, but at the same time he lets the burden of the responsibility for the theft of the gold fall upon a larger number of persons in order to lessen the burden which right fell upon him. His new accomplices are: Dumandric, Erkovic, Francic, and Turina. Together with Dr. Pavelic they have a good time and noisily mock of their great Croatia, meanwhile wringing their hands, and at the same time they divide the wealth of the Croatian populace bleeding it like leeches in possible ways and taking from it under numerous pretenses that which it has earned with its blood. If in reality, they wish to be that which they are trying to show themselves to be, self-satisfied and praising themselves, why do they hide the fact that they possess the gold?

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Why do they spend this gold for their private ends, secretly and vilely, instead of using it in the interest of the Croat refugees?"

Comment: It is believed that reference here is to Dr. Stjepan Peric, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Mandic Cabinet.

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